

**Amendment to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, lines 3-11 as follows: '

As a process for recovering N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone from a slurry of a PAS obtained by reacting an alkali metal sulfide with a dihalo-aromatic compound in N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone to purify it, there has also been proposed a process comprising adding a small amount of ammonia or amine to a liquid comprising N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone as a principal component, and then conducting distillation (for example, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2001-354769 ~~11-354769~~).